

Message Text

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ORIGIN ACDA-12

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P 012300Z FEB 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL NATO CAPITALS PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USDEL MBFR VIENNA
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

UNCLAS STATE 027231

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, CCD, UN

SUBJECT: STATEMENT AT CCD BY US AMBASSADOR

GENEVA FOR CCD D-L/SALT DEL BELGRADE FOR CSCE DEL
1. FYI FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE WAS PREPARED FOR USE BY
STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN AT NOON BRIEFING FEBRUARY 1.
QUESTION NOT RAISED AT BRIEFING.

Q. ACCORDING TO A REPORT IN THE NEW YORK TIMES TODAY, US
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AMBASSADOR ADRIAN FISHER, SPEAKING AT THE CONFERENCE OF THE
COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT (CCD) IN GENEVA, IMPLIED THAT THE
UNITED STATES OPPOSED THE FRENCH PLAN TO REPLACE THE CCD
WITH ANOTHER NEGOTIATING BODY. DOES THIS REPRESENT A
DEFINITIVE US VIEW? YOU SAID THE OTHER DAY THAT THE US WAS
AWAITING FURTHER DETAILS ON THE VARIOUS FRENCH DISARMAMENT
PROPOSALS.

A. WE DO NOT YET HAVE DETAILS OF THE FRENCH PROPOSALS .
AMBASSADOR FISHER WAS SIMPLY RESTATING A LONG STANDING US
POSITION ON THE CCD. HE WAS NOT RESPONDING DIRECTLY TO THE
FRENCH PROPOSAL REGARDING A NEW MULTILATERAL NEGOTIATING
BODY, THE DETAILS OF WHICH WE HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED AND
CONCERNING WHICH THE US HAS NOT YET TAKEN A POSITION. THE

US HAS BEEN FLEXIBLE IN ITS ATTITUDE TOWARD CHANGES IN THE
PRESENT CCD ARRANGEMENTS BUT NATURALLY WOULD WISH TO SEE
ANY CHANGES WORK TOWARD A MORE EFFECTIVE NEGOTIATING
FORUM. WE HAVE ALSO HOPED THAT THE FRENCH WOULD SOME DAY
FIND IT POSSIBLE TO JOIN IN THIS PROCESS.

2. TEXT OF NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE FOLLOWS:

GENEVA, JAN. 31-THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION
VOICED OPPOSITION TODAY TO A FRENCH PROPOSAL TO SCRAP THE
30 NATION DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE HERE AS THE PRINCIPAL
ARMS-CONTROL FORUM.

THE TWO MAJOR NUCLEAR POWERS ARE CO-CHAIRMEN OF THE 16-
YEAR OLD ARMS TALKS, OFFICIALLY KNOWN AS THE CONFERENCE OF
THE COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT, WHICH BEGIN ITS 1978 SESSION
TODAY. FRANCE HAS BEEN BOYCOTTING THE CONFERENCE WHICH
WAS ESTABLISHED ON THE JOINT INITIATIVE OF THE UNITED
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STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION WITH THE BLESSING OF THE
UNITED NATIONS.

ADRIAN S. FISHER OF THE UNITED STATES WAS MORE CIRCUM-
SPECT THAN THE SOVIET DELEGATE, VIKTOR I. LIKHACHEV,
IN ALLUDING TO THE FRENCH PLAN TO REPLACE THE CONFERENCE
BY ANOTHER PERMANENT BODY ATTACHED DIRECTLY TO THE
UNITED NATIONS. MR. FISHER DID NOT RULE OUT CHANGES IN
THE PRESENT ARRANGEMENTS, BUT SAID THAT CHANGES SHOULD BE
EFFECTED ONLY IF THEY MADE THE CONFERENCE A MORE EFFECTIVE
FORUM. IN AN INDIRECT APPEAL TO FRANCE AND CHINA, THE
OTHER ABSENT NUCLEAR POWER, HE SAID THE UNITED STATES
WOULD WELCOME PARTICIPATION BY IMPORTANT NATIONS NOT NOW
REPRESENTED.

THE SOVIET DELEGATE ALSO AVOIDED DIRECT MENTION OF THE
FRENCH PROPOSAL, WHICH IS TO BE SUBMITTED IN MAY TO A
SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ON DISARMAMENT. MR. LIKHACHEV CALLED THE PRESENT
CONFERENCE AN "AUTHORITATIVE AND EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL
BODY ON DISARMAMENT".

WHILE FAVORING CONTINUATION OF THE CONFERENCE, SWEDEN
AND MEXICO EXPRESSED THE VIEW, GENERALLY SHARED BY THE 15
NONALIGNED MEMBER STATES, THAT THE AMERICANS AND RUSSIANS
SHOULD ABANDON THEIR ROLE AS CO-CHAIRMEN ON THE GROUND
THAT SUCH A MOVE WOULD MAKE IT EASIER FOR FRANCE AND CHINA
TO JOIN THE DISCUSSIONS. MANY OF THE NONALIGNED
COUNTRIES FEEL THAT HAVING THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET
UNION AS OVERSEERS RELEGATES THE OTHER COUNTRIES TO A

SECONDARY ROLE.

THE CONFERENCE'S MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS HAVE BEEN TREATIES
AGAINST THE SPREAD OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND BANNING OF
WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION FROM THE SEABED. IT ALSO
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CONCLUDED PACTS OUTLAWING GERM WARFARE AND PROHIBITING
MANIPULATION OF THE WEATHER FOR MILITARY PURPOSES. VANCE

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